

CHAPTER: I <b>INTRODUCTION</b>	SECTION: 1 <b>STATEMENT OF PURPOSE</b>	COMAR: <b>07.03.03.01</b>
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**DHR TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE MANUAL  
FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION  
BUREAU OF POLICY AND TRAINING  
JUNE 1, 2000**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

As of January 1, 1997, Maryland's welfare reform initiative, the Family Investment Program (FIP), replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). FIP is administered by the Family Investment Administration (FIA) of the Department of Human Resources. FIP components include Temporary Cash Assistance, Welfare Avoidance Grants, Emergency Assistance, Child Care and Medical Assistance, State Funded Temporary Cash Assistance and other DHR approved programs developed by local departments.

Regulations, procedures, and policies have been amended or eliminated. The changes simplify and streamline the program. One goal of FIP was to have Temporary Cash Assistance mirror Food Stamp policy. Where possible, changes in the Food Stamp program's financial requirements were made to allow for greater compatibility with TCA. Local departments developed and implemented plans specific to their jurisdiction. The plans ensure more local control, and flexibility to better serve our needy customers.

The Family Investment Administration believes that employment is a vital step towards independence. With this in mind, the goal of FIP is to provide assistance and supportive services that remove obstacles from the paths of families with dependent children as they travel towards self-sufficiency, stability, and independence. This approach renders respectful, dignified, timely, and accurate aid to better equip the Maryland's needy population, allowing them to become full participants in a brighter future.